

May 13-16, 1982, p. 2

Francis Blaum (THE CARBONDALE NEWS, April 21, 1982, p. 10): "In a ceremony conducted in the office of the Mayor at historic City Hall in Carbondale...." That is very good; it is becoming a part of the local consciousness that Carbondale City Hall is historic, if you please. The meeting was very satisfying. John Revak showed the plaque from the flag pole at the old high school (?) and we all examined it with enthusiasm. The Shiflers reported that they know people who have important collections of Carbondale objects and that they could be persuaded to put them on display during the week of Pioneer Days. I said that we would be delighted to put all objects on display. Perhaps we should announce a "loan exhibition" and really make an effort to get Carbondale objects. We agreed to have a work session on Saturday. I reported that the pigeons had been screened out of the building and John Buberniak said that no they had no been screened out--they are still getting in, said he, in fact, they have knocked down a board above the clock face. I couldn't believe that the pigeons would be able to knock down a board. At the conclusion of the meeting I said that I was going over to the Chellino to talk with David Baum for a few minutes and that I would join my colleagues (Tomaine, Revak and Buberniak) at Mister Donue when I had had my chat with DJB. We parted in front of CCH and I went to the Chellino, where I found DJB in the back area chatting animatedly with a collection of locals. David came to the side and we chatted. He seemed "down" as it were. I told him that I wanted to organize a testimonial dinner for him before he left town and he was very pleased. The testimonial will take place in a month or so: it will be a fund-raiser for the Committee and a testimonial for DJB. I drank a Miller's with DJB and apparently my "five minutes" had turned out to be longer than I had thought for John Buberniak came looking for me wondering "if I had been mugged." I quickly took my leave of DJB and went with John to Mister Donut where my colleagues were drinking coffee. I bought a round, plus donuts. Tomaine was in a surprisingly supporting mood and seemed interested in what had happened since he last attended a meeting. He volunteered to take some photographs of City Hall and I said that I would meet him at 10:30 A.M. on Friday in McDonnell's and we would take photographs. Around 11 P.M. I offered John Buberniak a ride home and that was that. On Friday morning I went to the Post Office with HLRP and picked up the flags that Paul Mullally had gotten for me and the Committee from the American Legion: 12 flags for the small markers in front of Memorial Park. They will not be needed immediately because the VFW seems to have replaced the old flags in preparation for the installation of the 81mm. mortars. I went to the NEWS office and David was there, as were Phil Heth et alii. I pretended as if I knew nothing about DJB's being laid off. Phil Heth was his usual philistine self. I inquired about the Library fund drive and he reported that the checks were just beginning to come in. David and I went to the Liberty Bank and he paid me for my Wilkes-Barre "Basic Grantsmanship" expenses. I went to McDonnell's and read the mail that was in Box 161 and waited for Tomaine. At about 11 he arrived and we set out to take photographs of CCH: one from over by River Street, one from South Main Street and one from North Main Street. John Buberniak arrived as we were taking pictures and seemed annoyed that I was having Tomaine take pictures of the same shots that John took a week or two ago. I explained that these photos were in black and white and not color and John was comforted, and no longer at all annoyed. I explained that these black and white photographs were for the National Register nomination form and that the color slides were for the presentations during Pioneer Days. Tomaine and I went up on top of the M&M Bank: I saw someone in a window and asked if we could come up and take a photograph. OK said the person in the window. The M&M Roof has been beautifully repaired. The interior of the building is enormous, and the building is a gem from top to bottom. I am glad that Adams has the building and that he has the money to restore the building. At 11:45 I was to meet HLRP in front of City Hall: I spotted her and since I had Tomaine and John Buberniak in tow, I asked them if they wanted to ride out in the country with me and back and then I would have the car. OK. Tomaine helped carry in the groceries: about 30 large tins of ice tea mix. John and Tomaine examined the Gravity Railroad Car at the Homestead. They were very interested in it and we looked it over carefully. Some evidence of the blue D&H paint can be seen on it in several places. WSP's flowers now grow on and around it and there are two or three robins who have chosen to build their nests on the outside of the "Car."

May 13-16, 1982, p. 3

I just recall one fact that I forgot to report about the Meeting on Thursday night: I read my letter to the Committee about the Post Office lights proposal that I have in the works. I also showed DJB the letter on Friday, AM. Not long after our return to Carbonale, Tomaine took his leave and John and I walked up to the Post Office and picked up the mail. The "You Have A Friend in Pennsylvania" promo package from the State that John ordered for me was there and John was pleased to see it and I was pleased that John had been so thoughtful as to order the book for me. We walked down to McDonnell's and had a coke and French fries. I then asked John if he wanted to walk around Maplewood Cemetery for a while. OK. I tried to visit Suchnick but he was not at home, although he was in the neighborhood so his wife said. In the Cemetery the grass had been cut in many places and the Cemetery looked good. I was very happy. Before Tomaine left, he and John and I went into City Hall to take a photograph of the roof supports of the two-story wing. Tomaine set up his camera in the attic of the three-story wing and John was his assistant and I went up to the tower to look at the "fallen board caused by the pigeons." It is a board over the clock: the board did not fall down, and the board did not come down because of the pigeons. It appears as if someone deliberately pushed the board from the ceiling. As the board fell, it must have bounced off the clock protective structure that we built and into the face of the clock on the south side, cracking one of the panes of glass. It appears as if someone were trying to do damage to the clock. I suspected then (as I suspect now) sabotage. John Buberniak was in the tower on Friday, May 7, 1982 and everything was OK. He was there on Tuesday after school and the board was down. Over the weekend (on Saturday), Bill Kelley had put in a few lancet windows. I asked Mary Milligan who had borrowed the keys and she said the Chief (Dottle) had borrowed the keys to look at some police records on the third floor and that Ed Krantz had also borrowed the keys recently. A root beer can was sitting on the level of the clock on the floor. Someone was up there and drank the can of root beer. On the ceiling above the clock was an empty photocell box--the device that causes the lights to come on when it gets dark, photoelectric cell. That box was not up there the last time I was up on that level, which was on April 30 or May 1. I will speak to Tom Brennan and Bill Kelley and see what they can tell me about the "fallen" board: it board was broken in such a way that it had to have been deliberately pushed off. I hope it was not sabotage. It it was, then we really have problems. After we descended from the Tower, we three chatted with Mary Milligan and I asked her if the City subscribed to the Local Government Funding Report and she said that she didn't know but that Pete Judge would know and that he was in his office. It was Mary Milligan who told me that Ed Krantz and Chief Dottle had recently borrowed the key, by the way. Judge seemed like a frightened chicken in the presence of a hawk when I entered his office with John and Bob. I asked my questions about the LGFR and he had a copy on his desk and said that I could look at it on a weekly basis. John said that he would pick it up from Judge every Friday. Very nice of him. I told him about my Wilkes-Barre "course" and he seemed interested. We looked out the window at the Park 81 mm. howitzer installation that was going on. He reported that the spruce tree was going to be cut down and that 4 more would be planted in its place. How droll: correct a problem and then plant four more problems in its place. Judge reported: "I see that someone cleaned a patch on the front of the building.... We would have liked it if the patch was on the back of the building where no one could see it." The thought that immediately occurred to me was this: the City was so embarrassed by the Committee's cleaning and such of the building, specifically the test patch on Tuesday AM, that a representative of the City went up to the Tower and pushed down the board on the clock just to show the Committee who was in charge and that the City was not to be embarrassed by a bunch of do-gooders and so on... Further investigation will have to be conducted in order to determine who pushed the board down on the clock and why. I sincerely hope that it was not someone from the City. The meeting with